

CLAIMS

1. A mailing machine for franking mail items comprising:

a frame holding at least one section of the mailing machine, the at least one section being at least one of a franking section having a franking head, a feed station, or a circuitry section;

a user interface connected to the frame; and

a first cover connected to the frame and covering a portion of the at least one section, the first cover having a viewing area of transparent or semi-transparent material;

wherein, the viewing area is disposed for allowing viewing of an interior portion of the at least one section of the mailing machine.

2. The mailing machine for franking mail items of claim 1;

wherein the at least one section comprises the franking section and the feed section and wherein the interior portion includes an interior of the franking section and of the feed section viewable through the viewing area.

3. The mailing machine for franking mail items of claim 2 wherein the first cover has a first predetermined characteristics, the first cover being selectable from a number of different interchangeable covers each having different predetermined characteristics.

4. The mailing machine for franking mail items of claim 3 wherein the first predetermined characteristic is visible indicia.

5. The mailing machine for franking mail items of claim 1 further comprising a second cover, the second cover being opaque, and interchangeable with the first cover.

6. The mailing machine for franking mail items of claim 1 further comprising an illumination source, wherein the illumination source illuminates the interior portion.

7. The mailing machine for franking mail items of claim 1, wherein the viewing area is disposed to allow assembly illumination for viewing the interior portion.

8. A mailing machine for franking mail items comprising:

a franking device having a franking head and a mail feeder being adapted to feed the mail items to the franking head;

a user interface operably connected to the franking device;

circuitry interfacing the user interface to the franking device;

a detachable first cover for covering at least a portion of at least one of the franking device, feeder, or circuitry; and

a detachable second cover having an appearance different than the detachable first cover and being interchangeable with the first cover.

9. The mailing machine of claim 8 wherein at least one of the detachable first cover or the detachable second cover has a viewing area of transparent or semi-transparent material, the viewing area being disposed so that an interior portion of the at least one of the franking device, feeder, or circuitry is viewable through the viewing area.

10. The mailing machine of claim 8 further comprising an illumination source, wherein the illumination source illuminates at least one of the interior portion, the first cover or second cover.

11. The mailing machine of claim 8 further comprising fasteners adapted to couple the detachable first cover to the at least one of the franking device, feeder, or circuitry; wherein, the fasteners are a different color than the first cover.

12. The mailing machine of claim 9 further comprising a third cover, wherein the third cover has another viewing area of transparent or semi-transparent material, and wherein the other viewing area is disposed to allow viewing of a different interior portion of the mailing machine, other than a portion of the user interface, through the other viewing area.

13. The mailing machine of claim 12 wherein the third cover is at least partially opaque and having a color

different than either the detachable first or second covers.

14. A mailing machine for franking mail items comprising:

a frame holding at least one operable section of the mailing machine, the at least one section being at least one of a franking section having a franking head, a feed section, or a circuitry section;

a user interface connected to the frame;

a first cover connected to the frame and covering a portion of the at least one section; and

an overlay cover, the overlay cover covering a portion or all of the first cover;

wherein, the overlay cover is removable and replaceable with a different overlay cover with a different predetermined characteristic than the overlay cover.

15. The mailing machine of claim 14 wherein, the overlay cover is transparent or semi-transparent.

16. The mailing machine of claim 15 wherein the first cover has a viewing area that is transparent or semi-transparent, wherein the viewing area is disposed so that an interior portion of the at least one section is visible through the viewing area of the first cover.

17. The mailing machine of claim 16 wherein at least a portion of the user interface extends through both the first cover and the overlay cover.

18. The mailing machine of claim 16 wherein the overlay cover has a different color than the different overlay cover.

19. The mailing machine of claim 14 further comprising a fourth cover, wherein the fourth cover has a viewing area that is transparent or semi-transparent, and wherein the viewing area is disposed so that an interior portion of the at least one section is visible through the viewing area.

20. The mailing machine of claim 16 further comprising a fourth cover, wherein the fourth cover has another viewing area that is transparent or semi-transparent, and wherein the other viewing area is disposed so that a different interior portion of the at least one section is visible through the other viewing area.